

To: Michigan House of Representatives - Transportation Committee  
Rep. Opsommer - Chairman  
From: Representative Alberta Tinsley Talabi  
Date: June 12, 2012

IN SUPPORT OF HB 5198

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Transportation Committee.

Far too many of our most financially distressed citizens have been forced to surrender their driving privileges because of their inability to meet the fees imposed by the Driver Responsibility Act. HB 5198 addresses fees that in fact represent the double jeopardy created by the Act.

The Driver Responsibility Act first imposes set fees for certain traffic violations. Then it also imposes a separate fee for the points placed on the driver's record for the violation. **Punishment twice for the same violation.** Let us not forget that the driver will also be penalized by their insurance company for the accumulation of points. The results are increased insurance premiums or denial, even cancelation of their automobile insurance. **Added jeopardy to the driver for the same violation.**

The Drivers Responsibility Act was enacted to change "bad driving" behavior. This has never happened. What has happened is this. The Act has in reality served as revenue for the state. This Act has deprived people of their right to drive legally even though their driving behavior did not truly endanger anyone. Furthermore, the Act has deprived our jurists the right to rule on the merits of each individual case.

More now than ever before people in Michigan need to provide their own transportation to work, to their college/trade school and to take care of certain basic necessities. We take that opportunity from them by suspending their licenses when they are unable to pay fees created by the accumulation of more than seven points over a two-year period. The license privilege should only be taken from those who truly place others at risk by their dangerous driving behavior.

At a time when we see our economy beginning its recovery we need to afford the same opportunity of recovery for those who are safe drivers but cannot afford the Driver Responsibility Act fees. **This is a flawed law. The provisions of the Act that deprive safe drivers the right to drive must be repealed.**

I urge this committee to take action in support of HB 5198 at its earliest opportunity.



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State Representative - District 003